

False marks

Principals of all the eight medical colleges of the country have put their heads together to find a solution to the problem of deceitful admission to their institutions, says a report which, interestingly, depicts them to be somewhat helpless before the situation. It is indeed a pity that corrupt practices have overtaken our entire education sphere from admission to examination and administration, so much so that these are regularly making news. It will be recalled that on top of the shocking story of the secondary school certificate examination question-paper leakage in Dacca last month came the reports about the admission to medical colleges on the strength of fake marksheets, as if the cup of shock and surprise for the people had not been already filled. Nevertheless, the authorities now are trailing the incidents to take corrective and punitive steps. We hope, they do it promptly and properly. We would also strongly suggest that the preventive measures against such offences should be strong enough to preclude the possibility of their repetition and the provisions of punishment harsh enough to prove effective deterrents.

The medical college authorities have already detected over a dozen cases of false marksheets used for admission, and they suspect that the number might be higher. A recent meeting of the principals, which was presided over by the Director of Health, urged the government agencies including the Health Ministry to deal with the problem of producing false marksheets for admission with "all seriousness" and to take "necessary actions" against the concerned students. These observations or entreaties are likely to prove a bit confusing for the public. For, these raise questions about the seriousness of the concerned governmental agencies in the matter and about the powers of the principals to punish the offending students. The general belief is that the government is all serious about it and the medical colleges are powerful enough to curb the offence.

However, we feel that the matter is so important, and the situation is so serious that not only the government and the college authorities, but also the parents and the conscious student community as a whole should come forward to grapple with it. It must be noted also that students alone cannot perhaps forge marksheets without the collaboration of officials or, in some cases, parents too. They also deserve to be condemned by the society and punished by the authorities.